

# ACHS SUMMARY FORM

Name Clarksburg School

M: 13-52

2. Planning Area/Site Number 13-33

3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 7, A-4

4. Address Schoolhouse Road  
Clarksburg, Md.

5. Classification Summary

Category Building

Ownership Public

Public Acquisition

Status Unoccupied

Accessible Restricted access

Present use Under restoration for community use

Previous Survey Recording Federal x State x County x Local

National Register, 1974

6. Date 1909

7. Original Owner

Montgomery County School Board

8. Apparent Condition

a. Good, under restoration

c. moved

b. altered

## Description

Frame, two-room school house, moved 100 yards from its earlier location but preserving its prominent situation and compass orientation. A rectangular structure with a prominent projecting porch on the main (northwest) facade, enclosing the central entrance flanked by pilasters and carrying a triangular pediment. A central gable contains a wooden plaque with "Clarksburg School" in raised letters, and is sheathed in patterned shingles. The pairs of double-hung windows to either side of the entrance announce the two classrooms which run laterally to the porch.

10. Significance

one of

Clarksburg School / the last remaining example in Montgomery County of a frame, two-room school house, one of four similar structures built shortly after 1900. Recognized as an important community landmark, the structure was saved by moving it 300 feet along the crest of the hill, clearing the site for a new, larger school house, and allowing the preserved structure to be put to community use. Closely associated with this site are the locations of the former Clarksburg Academy (1833) and an earlier one room school house.

11. Date researched 1974 -- Ann McGrath, Don Maxey, and Christopher Owens

12. Compiler Frederick Gutheim

13. Date Compiled 5/78

14. Designation  
Approval

3330702  
FORM 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

MAGI # 1613330702

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1000181410K  
M:13-52

STATE	M-13-33
COUNTY	Maryland
Montgomery FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

The Clarksburg School

AND OF HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Southeast side of intersection of Maryland Route 355

CITY OR TOWN:

Clarksburg

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Eighth

COUNTY:

Montgomery

CODE

24

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) under restoration for community use

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Montgomery County Public Schools

STREET AND NUMBER:

850 North Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Rockville

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Montgomery County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

Court House Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal

☐ State

☐ County

☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Maryland

Montgomery

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clarksburg School house, located on a knoll above the town of Clarksburg, is the last remaining example in Montgomery County of a frame, two-room school house. Although the school has been moved about one hundred yards, it still occupies the prominent position it has always had and the compass orientation has been preserved. The moving of the building was necessitated by the refusal of the Montgomery County School Board to incorporate the older structure into the new wing of the modern Clarksburg Elementary School; it was thus the only alternative to demolition.

The building is a rectangular structure with a prominent projecting porch on the main (northwest) facade. The porch, in a version of the colonial revival with shingle style detailing, is the one consciously stylar feature of an otherwise vernacular structure. The entrance is in the center bay of the porch; flanking it are two large four over four double hung sash windows. The entrance itself is flanked by pilasters that carry a triangular pediment; the double doorway is set back from the wall surface and the deep reveals are panelled. The deep eaves cornice is returned into the gable end, which is sheathed in patterned shingles. The upper third of the gable projects forward, supported by five brackets. In the lower part of the gable is a wooden plaque with "Clarksburg School" in raised letters. A frieze band runs along the sides of the pediment. The side walls of the porch both have a single window of four over four hung sash; below the eaves cornice is a wide frieze band.

The classroom block runs laterally to the porch. The northeast and southwest (end) walls each have five windows, all four over four double hung sash. They are grouped so that there are two double windows flanking a single window. The roof is a gabled hip, with arched windows or louvers (now covered with plywood) in the exposed peak of both gables. The eaves are deep, but unlike the porch, there is no frieze band. The entire roof is covered with pattered tin sheathing.

In plan, there are two classrooms opening off the entrance way. It appears that the building once had a central hall with the classrooms opening off of it; but the wall between the hallway and the southwest classroom has been removed to create a larger space. In spite of their having been dropped several feet, the ceilings are still extremely high and, combined with the generous windows, create a feeling of openness and light. The walls were originally plastered; later, vertical pine paneling was installed. The flooring was originally narrow boards; it has been covered with asbestos tile.

The construction of the building is conventional for the early twentieth century. The framing members are all sawn, having come from a local saw-mill. Over the studs is a sheathing of diagonally-positioned boards to which the weatherboarding is attached.

(see continuation sheet number 1)

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

M.13-52

## B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☒ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1909

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☒ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☒ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

local history☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clarksburg School is the last remaining of four similar frame structures built shortly after the turn of the century in Montgomery County and was in continuous service from 1909 to 1972 when it was scheduled to be razed to make room for new construction. A strong appeal from concerned citizens to save a community landmark resulted in the allocation of funds by the County Council to move the school approximately 300 feet along the crest of the hill to be clear of the new construction.

The community of Clarksburg is a pre-revolutionary settlement that was the site of a three day encampment by General Braddock and a 1754 tavern known as Dowden's Ordinary which was tragically razed and burned, without public notice, less than ten years ago within sight of the 1909 school.

The town's long history as a horse and carriage stop has provided a continuous tapestry of the development of rural education in America from the old Clarksburg Academy in 1853, to the town's first one-room public school on the same property, to the two-room 1909 school in question, to the modern consolidated school in current use, all on two sites within a quarter mile of each other.

Community support for public education has been evident down through the years--early board minutes show that Clarksburg School was the first in the county to be granted the ten dollars mandated by the State of Maryland as matching funds for ten dollars raised locally to purchase library books; and Miss Mary Morningstar initiated one of the earliest hot lunch programs (1938) on a three-burner kerosene stove with a menu of turnips, cabbage, and spinach largely donated by local farmers.

The 1909 Clarksburg School is one of the last representatives of a simple but effective type of school organization that occupied a significant niche in the history of public school education.\*

\*In the opinion of E. Gay Jewell, a former president of the Montgomery County Historical Society and a recognized authority on the history of Montgomery County, "THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE TO PRESERVE A SCHOOL OF THIS PERIOD."

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 1

STATE	
Maryland M:13-52	
COUNTY	
Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

The Clarksburg School

Number 7. Description continued.

The school building is currently vacant but a local citizen's group has plans for a combined restoration and adaptive use project. One room will be restored as a museum, many of the objects for which have already been donated, while the other will be adapted for use as a local arts center. No decision has been made yet on removing the false ceiling and pine paneling; these modernizations (1936) installed by an earlier generation are regarded by some of the local citizens as significant both because they represent the style and taste of another era and because they have become a part of the history of the building. One possibility that is being considered is the restoration of one room to its original appearance and the retention of the changes in the other. On the exterior, however, the plan is to restore it to an original appearance and to provide landscaping as closely resembling that of its former site as is possible. The present concrete foundation will be faced with stone saved from the original foundation, the sign "Clarksburg School" will be restored, and the arched openings in the gable ends will probably be uncovered.

Number 8. Significance continued.

School design did not follow an arithmetic progression from the classical one-room structure by simply adding one room after another, nor was there a sudden jump to the six or eight-room consolidated school. The two-room school with one room for the lower grades and one for the upper grades was widely used during the first half of the twentieth century and represented a major step in the transition to consolidated schools.

Miss Mary Morningstar who taught in the school from 1936 to 1951 and Mrs. Mary Lowe Smith who taught from 1925 to 1936, are still residents of the area and available for consultation to assist in the authentic restoration of one of the two rooms as an early twentieth century classroom and rural life museum. Many local citizens have offered to contribute materials to the museum and some items, including an early ballot box which was used for years during the school's service as a polling place and tape recordings of the recollections of old-timers in the area, have already been acquired.

The second room is to be developed as a local arts and crafts center to insure a continued vitality for the old school. The museum and the arts and crafts center should supplement each other in sustaining community interest down through the years.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Minutes of Montgomery County School Board  
 Mrs. Mary Lowe Smith (Clarksburg School principal-teacher 1925-1936)  
 Miss Mary Morningstar (Clarksburg School principal-teacher 1936-1951)  
 Mr. E. Guy Jewell (local historian)

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Mrs. Ann McGrath and Mr. Don Maxey (see continuation sheet number 2)  
 ORGANIZATION

Clarksburg Community Association  
 STREET AND NUMBER:

24210 Peachtree Road  
 CITY OR TOWN:

Clarksburg STATE Maryland CODE 24

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Orlando Ridout IV  
 State Historic Preservation  
 Title Officer

Date April 24, 1974

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 2

STATE		M:13-52
COUNTY		Maryland
MONTGOMERY		
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number all entries)

The Clarksburg School

Number 11. Form Prepared By continued.

Christopher Owens, Historian  
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
5107 Muncaster Mill Road  
Rockville, Maryland

January 1974

24

M: 13-52

146A  
SM 14.8  
US  
Clarksburg

CLARKSBURG SCHOOL

Clarksburg  
Sch

John Wesley  
Ch.

510 000  
FEET

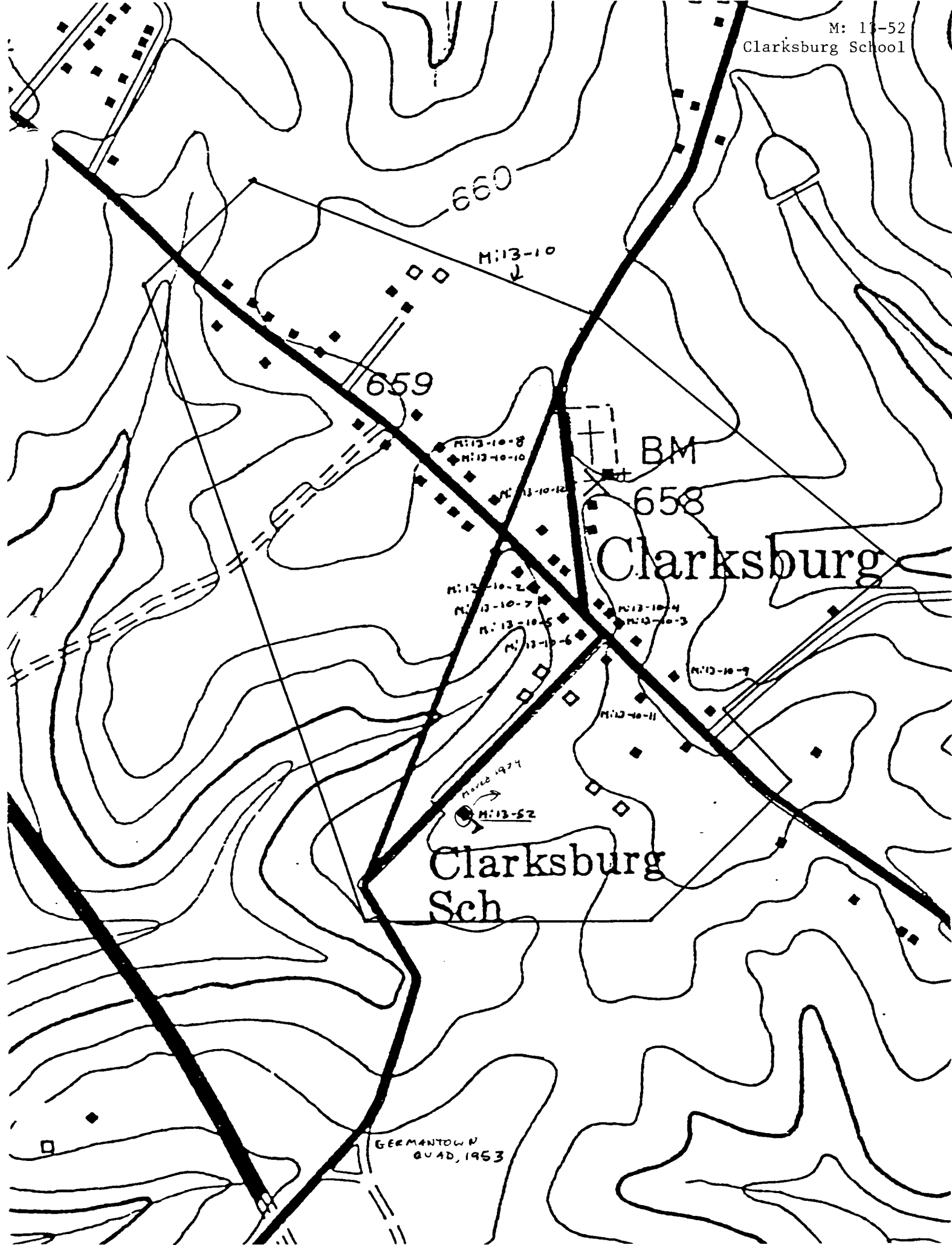
WASHINGTON D C WHITE HOUSE 27 M.

- 12'30"

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M: 13-52  
Clarksburg School





CLAR-GER-BÖY TELEGRAM PHOTO BY W.R. KIRSCH

THE CLARKSBURG SCHOOL

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

M. 13-52

M: ~~13-10~~



M: 13-52





NAME 1909 CLARKSBURG SCHOOL (RELOCATED) ~~#13-33~~  
LOCATION RTE. 121 CLARKSBURG, MD. #13-52  
EACADE NE  
PHOTO TAKEN 10/30/74 M. DWYER